

Appl. No. 09/554,333
Reply to Office Action of June 3, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Without prejudice or disclaimer, please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figures 9A to 9B show the construction of plasmids pMP53, pMP54 and pMP55 from plasmid pMP52 and phosphorylated linker-Hepatitis Delta virus ribozyme (antigenomic) (SEQ ID Nos: 9 and 10);

Without prejudice or disclaimer, please replace the last paragraph of Example 1, which begins at page 12, line 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The 5' end of the SFV replicon was produced by PCT amplification of pSFV1 using primers SFV-5'-3' having the sequence
5'-ATCTATGAGCTCGTTTAGTGAACCGTATGGCGGATGTGTGACATACA-3'
and EcoR-SPE having the sequence
5'-TCCACCTCCAAGGATATCCAAGATGAGTGTG-3' (SEQ ID no.: 9 13 and SEQ ID no: 10 14 respectively) between the CMV promoter and the 5' end of the SFV replicon. The resulting PCR fragment was restricted with SacI and EcoRV (Fig. 13; SEQ ID no: 11 12) and the fragment was isolated.